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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/084,322	02/28/2002	Hiroshi Minagawa	P21975.DC2.doc	6743

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RESTON, VA 20191

EXAMINER

NGUYEN, KIMBINH T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2671

16

DATE MAILED: 12/05/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/084,322

Applicant(s)

MINAGAWA ET AL.

Examiner

Kimbinh T. Nguyen

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 February 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 6,9.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-21 are pending in the application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1, 2, 5, 6-10, 13-17, 19-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kurlander (6,069,622).

Claims 1, 8, Kurlander teaches a display device an electronic comic including at least one frame on each page (to display a series of comic panels, order sequentially by time, on a display screen; col. 2, lines 36-37), which frame comprises a balloon portion displaying words and a frame image (abstract), wherein the apparatus uses image data (col. 2, lines 40-42), including the balloon portion and the frame image, and text data indicating words in order to display words based on the text data in the balloon portion (abstract). Kurlander does not teach frame image; however, Kurlander teaches each comic panel provides a graphical representation of an instance in time of the sequential course of events. A scroll bar displayed on the display device is provided for scrolling through the plurality of comic panels (col. 3, lines 42-49), this feature related to a frame image; therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the

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time the invention was made to utilize a frame image for displaying comic representation, because it would provide a graphical representation of an instance of time during a sequential course of events (col. 3, lines 54-67).

Claims 2, 6, 7, 9, 13, 14, Kurlander discloses the electronic comic is displayed frame by frame on the screen by zooming-in each frame sequentially (col. 2, lines 50-59); frames on one page are displayed, and words in a predetermined frame of the displayed frames are displayed sequentially in a predetermined frame order (current panel (frame) and new panel (frame) of an instance in time of a sequential course; col. 2, lines 54-62).

Claims 5, 12, Kurlander discloses words are displayed part by part within the balloon portion in a predetermined order (col. 6, lines 54-67; fig. 4).

Claims 15, 16, 19-21, the rationale provided in the rejection of claims 1, 2, 5, 7 is incorporated herein. In addition, Kurlander teaches a computer readable storage medium (col. 22, lines 40-43).

4. Claims 3, 10, 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kurlander (6,069,622) in view of Astle (5,485,611).

Claims 3, 10, Astle discloses frames on one page are displayed, and either fade-in processing or fade-out processing is performed on a predetermined frame of the displayed frames; at least one frame including words in the balloon portion is displayed, and either fade-in processing or fade-out processing is performed on all of the displayed words (detecting fade-in or fade-out; col. 7, lines 33-53). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the

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fades between video frames as taught by Astle into the comic generation system of Kurlander, because it would allow a user very likely recognize at least some of the events between the frames (col. 7, lines 49-50).

Claim 17, the rationale provided in the rejection of claim 3 is incorporated herein. In addition, Kurlander teaches a computer readable storage medium (col. 22, lines 40-43).

5. Claims 4, 11, 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kurlander (6,069,622) in view of Kleinman (EP 0304892 A2).

Claims 4, 11, Kleinman discloses text data corresponding to at least two languages are stored as the text data and text data corresponding to a selected language is displayed within the balloon in response to a predetermined operation (col. 4, lines 7-14). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate text strings to be changed or translated to another language as taught by Kleinman into the comic generation system of Kurlander, because it would allow a program to specify the placement of different objects independent of the text font chosen (col. 4, lines 20-24).

Claim 18, the rationale provided in the rejection of claim 4 is incorporated herein. In addition, Kurlander teaches a computer readable storage medium (col. 22, lines 40-43).

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Kimbinh Nguyen** whose telephone number is **(703)**

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305-9683. The examiner can normally be reached (**Monday- Thursday from 7:00 AM to 4:30 PM and alternate Fridays from 7:00 AM to 3:30 PM**).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mark Zimmerman, can be reached at (703) 305-9798.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

Or faxed to:

(703) 872-9314 (for Technology Center 2600 only)

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Part II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA, Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Technology Center 2600 Customer Service Office whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.

November 28, 2003



Kimbinh Nguyen

Patent Examiner AU 2671